

March 12, 1976

willing to accept the other 10% plus all of the other non-allowable costs. But, we included some things that absolutely is ridiculous. When we suggested to them that they provide program, they provide each child with this program and see that the child is appropriately placed by an appropriate professional, and then we said, but in the state's view we don't pay for diagnosis services. Well my friends, there are people in this state that advocate that you can be for every program that you want to as long as you can kick the cost locally. Somebody has to pay for that. Somebody has to pay for that. Right now the person who is paying for that is the local tax payer in North Platte, Nebraska and Kearney, Nebraska and Norfolk, Nebraska. I talked to two or three school officials yesterday, they are talking about increases of five and six and seven mills next year. This program here for the major school districts, and I should not use the major, probably has added anywhere from one to four mills. Somebody has got to pay for it. I think that you ought to get honest in terms of who ought to pay and where. First of all, no one, no one that I know of could suggest that you could run a special education program without careful diagnosis. No child should be placed in any program until some professional has made a very good judgment that that child belongs there and the parents agree. Diagnosis is very important first of all for the placement of that child, in what program he ought to be in and secondly, too determine whether he ought to be there at all. Probably the most important ingredient is that. The school districts ought to be extremely careful that the placement is done right and by qualified professionals. Now, that is the first step and only a fool would suggest that you could put people in programs without diagnosis and placement. Now, why wouldn't we pay for it? First of all we have said that this is not a screening diagnosis. We are not going to pay for a blanket screening of children. Children are referred for diagnosis by their professional classroom teacher or they are referred by the doctor, or the parent, school administrator or someone makes that kind of a recommendation. That child is evaluated in cooperation with the parent. Then he is placed. That is important but we had the audacity in rules and regulations, the second set I might mention, the first set said that we would do it. The legislative intent said that we would do it. The second set that came about by some interesting manipulations, which I don't have time nor because the extreme distaste for them to go into at this particular point and time. But, that was in the rules and regulations to start with. Then they said that it wasn't. That is hypocrisy to suggest that you could have that kind of program without doing that. I have offered you some viable alternatives. I have said to you, get honest, if you don't think that it ought to be paid for by the school district, then have the parents pay. Get on the line. If you don't think that the transportation ought to be there, then put the amendment up in terms of transportation that the parents will pay. But, don't sit back here and suggest, well we have got to get control of this some way or other, some how, and pass it right on to the local school districts. They have absorbed enough